

CLAIMS

1. A butterfly valve comprising a valve housing having a substantially cylindrical flow passage formed therein, a disc-shaped valve element arranged in said  
5 flow passage so as to be rotatable therein, a stem extending from said valve element to the outside of said valve housing and supported by said valve housing so as to be rotatable, and an operating unit for rotating said stem, said butterfly valve adapted so that said flow  
10 passage is opened and closed by rotating said stem to thereby rotate said valve element in said flow passage, wherein said butterfly valve further comprises a top flange for mounting said operating unit thereon which is formed integrally with said valve  
15 housing, said top flange formed with a plurality of cutouts extending from the outer peripheral edge of said top flange toward the center thereof.

2. The butterfly valve according to claim 1, further comprising an annular seat ring extending in a  
20 circumferential direction of said flow passage and fitted between the inner peripheral surface of said flow passage and the outer peripheral edge of said valve element, wherein said stem extends through said seat ring, said seat ring including a body and flanges formed at both  
25 axial ends of the body, said seat ring formed so that the outer periphery of said body thereof has an elliptical shape having a long axis extending along an axis of said stem and so that the inner periphery of the body thereof has a circular shape.

3. The butterfly valve according to claim 1, wherein a groove for a spacer for preventing said stem from coming off to be fitted therein is formed on the  
30 upper surface of said top flange.

4. The butterfly valve according to claim 2, wherein a groove for a spacer for preventing said stem  
35 from coming off to be fitted therein is formed on the upper surface of said top flange.